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## **RELEVANCE OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH OF UKRAINIAN SSR WORKERS OF POSTWAR TWENTY YEARS (1946–1965)**

*The article aims to explore the relevance of historiographic research of the Ukrainian SSR working class during postwar twenty years (1946-1965). The author concludes that under the current conditions of the radical renewal and democratization of the historical studies, development of the Ukrainian historical research schools, enhancement of the historical knowledge role in public life the historiographic research become increasingly important. Researchers of the Ukrainian history (all of its periods) realize that without the historiographical reflection and synthesis of all done by the predecessors, it's impossible to achieve serious progress in the study of any subject. The history of the Ukrainian SSR working class in post-war twenty years (1946–1965) is no exception.*

*Key words: Ukrainian SSR, working class, postwar reconstruction, historiography.*

The historical science always carefully studied and studies its history, processes that occur on its territory, research dynamics of various specific historical issues, the activities of relevant research institutions, as well as tries to comprehend and understand its place in the hierarchy of the humanities, social-political and public life. In modern times the Ukrainian historiography is on the way of critical reflection of its advances, revision of outdated assessments and interpretations inherited from the totalitarian era and finding answers to the new challenges of the Ukrainian society transformation. In this regard, the role of the problem historiography is rising. New social and political conditions are characterized by revision of many conceptual ideas of the Soviet historiography together with active scientific search for the historical truth. To ensure that it is carried out actively and effectively, it is necessary to obtain required historiographical works that are designed to bring historical thought to the next level of generalizations, give an opportunity to identify and seek to create scientifically substantiated objective specific historical works. Analytical thinking is required for the entire research process and its results, which is an important task of historiography as a special branch of historical studies, which not only analyzes the advances of the predecessors, but also produces new knowledge, supported by interdisciplinary research and related disciplines as well.

The relevance of historiographic research is not only in their self-sufficiency. It lies in the imminent attempt of the historical science itself to always find out the comprehension of the past, seek ways to improve theoretical-methodological and methodological foundations of its knowledge and thus to produce scientific discourses (historiographical images) that as much as possible reflect the historical past [1, 19]. Historiographic research provide deeper understanding of the problem, giving different views of the previous researchers and contribute to the intellectual historical studies, because they illustrate the evolution of the historical thought and social ideologies [2, 71].

Understanding of the Soviet historical experience causes contentious debate among professional historians, experts in related humanities and the public. The attitude to the Soviet period of history and its key stages, such as the period of 1946-1965, is determined by the socio-political situation in the contemporary Ukrainian society, by the fact what way it chooses to solve the pressing problems.

The presence of a large amount of historical, political, economic materials, which discuss the various aspects of the history of the Ukrainian SSR working class during postwar twenty years, allows conducting a historiographical analysis of papers on the subject, specify the advances in the study of the issue, outline the future prospects of

research. Any historiographic study is important because it summarizes the study results of certain problems, evaluates the significance of the results achieved in terms of modern for a historian scientific knowledge and understanding.

The significance and importance of historiographical development of the Ukrainian SSR working class during postwar twenty years is determined by several factors.

*Firstly*, research of the postwar period of the national history has come to a new level when many aspects and sides of the historical process are revealed, which are still inaccessible for researchers, or have biased and incomplete elucidation. This is possible because of the lapse of time in relation to a wide range of historical sources that are stored in the archives. The adoption of methodological pluralism and multiconceptual importance in history also contributes to the regeneration of scientific research, creates the conditions and at the same time creates a need for reinterpretation of a historiographical situation.

*Secondly*, the Soviet historical science being genetically embedded in the political and ideological system appeared largely to be a hostage of political regimes and ideologies. The scope of the national historiography appeared to be stuffed with mixed and divergent papers. In turn, though the works of Ukrainian foreign historians and Western scientists-Sovietologists refuted falsification and wrong interpretation of Soviet historical science or expressed alternative views, hardly penetrated through the "iron curtain" thus they could not be neither "food for thought" and the subject for further historical search nor influence the public opinion in the USSR. That is why the Ukrainian foreign historiography, contrary to the Soviet historiography, was rightfully considered in the West as "Ukrainian free historical science". At the same time, having limited access to the works of Western historians to the Soviet reader, Kremlin ideologists followed closely the historiographical process in Western Europe and North America. Some Western scholars' papers were kept in the USSR special storages and were used by solid Soviet historians and social scientists to criticize the "Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists" and "malicious falsifiers of the Soviet reality".

*Thirdly*, the search for the origins, causes and consequences of many phenomena and processes faced by contemporary Ukrainian reformers, requires a deeper and adequate penetration in the recent past. To better understand the nature of contemporary social, economic, moral and political problems that appeared in the Ukrainian society or are dormant, the penetration into the Soviet postwar history structure is required, using the experience and knowledge already accumulated by the historical science, as well as making a serious and deep research in both traditional and new lines. This is even more necessary now when the interest of the public to the problems and needs of a man has been increasing, which in turn stimulates the formation of anthropologically oriented historiography i.e. historiography aimed at studying the contribution of a single individual in the historical development and of the social group namely the working class which is the most widespread and fundamental social group of the Soviet civilization.

*Fourthly*, today the vast array of knowledge on the history of the problem has been accumulated, which has been greatly enriched over the past 30 years. But the research, made from different methodological positions, often deny the established conclusions, containing allegations of history rewriting, one-sided analysis or even sheer historical falsifications. So historiographical understanding of all scientific advances of Ukrainian (Soviet, Diaspora and modern) and foreign historiography is now relevant and necessary.

*Fifthly*, there are many gaps that need further clarification; several issues of the Ukrainian SSR working class history of the period studied have not received proper coverage. Also there is an opportunity to review a number of conclusions and provisions made earlier basing on new theoretical advances and introduced into scientific use of documents that until recently were unknown to scientists.

So under the current conditions of the radical renewal and democratization of the historical studies, development of the Ukrainian historical research schools, enhancement of the historical knowledge role in public life, the historiographic research become increasingly important. Researchers of the Ukrainian history (all of its

periods) realize that without the historiographical reflection and synthesis of all done by the predecessors, it's impossible to achieve serious progress in the study of any subject. The history of the Ukrainian SSR working class in post-war twenty years (1946-1965) is no exception.

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## АКТУАЛЬНІСТЬ ІСТОРІОГРАФІЧНОГО ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ РОБІТНИЦТВА УРСР ПОВОЄНОГО ДВАДЦЯТИРІЧЧЯ (1946–1965 рр.)

*Стаття ставить за мету дослідити актуальність історіографічного дослідження робітничого класу УРСР повоєнного двадцятиріччя (1946–1965 рр.). Автор приходить до висновків, що нині в умовах радикального оновлення і демократизації історичної науки, розбудови власне української науково-дослідницької історичної школи, підвищення ролі історичних знань у суспільному житті історіографічні дослідження набувають все більшого значення. Дослідники історії України – всіх без винятку її періодів – усвідомлюють, що без історіографічного осмислення й узагальнення усього того, що зроблено попередниками, неможливо досягти серйозних успіхів у дослідженні будь-якої теми. Не є винятком і історія робітничого класу УРСР повоєнного двадцятиріччя (1946–1965 рр.).*

*Ключові слова: УРСР, робітництво, повоєнна відбудова, історіографія.*

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## АКТУАЛЬНОСТЬ ИСТОРИОГРАФИЧЕСКОГО ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ РАБОЧЕГО КЛАССА УССР ПОВОЕННОГО ДВАДЦАТИЛЕТИЯ (1946–1965 гг.)

*Статья ставит целью исследовать актуальность историографического исследования рабочего класса УССР послевоенного двадцатилетия (1946-1965 гг.). Автор приходит к выводу, что в настоящее время в условиях радикального обновления и демократизации исторической науки, развития собственно украинской научно-исследовательской исторической школы, повышения роли исторических знаний в общественной жизни историографические исследования приобретают все большее значение. Исследователи истории Украины – всех без исключения ее периодов – осознают, что без историографического осмысления и обобщения всего того, что сделано предшественниками, невозможно достичь серьезных успехов в исследовании любой темы. Не является исключением и история рабочего класса УССР послевоенного двадцатилетия (1946–1965 гг.).*

*Ключевые слова: УССР, рабочий класс, послевоенное восстановление, историография.*

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